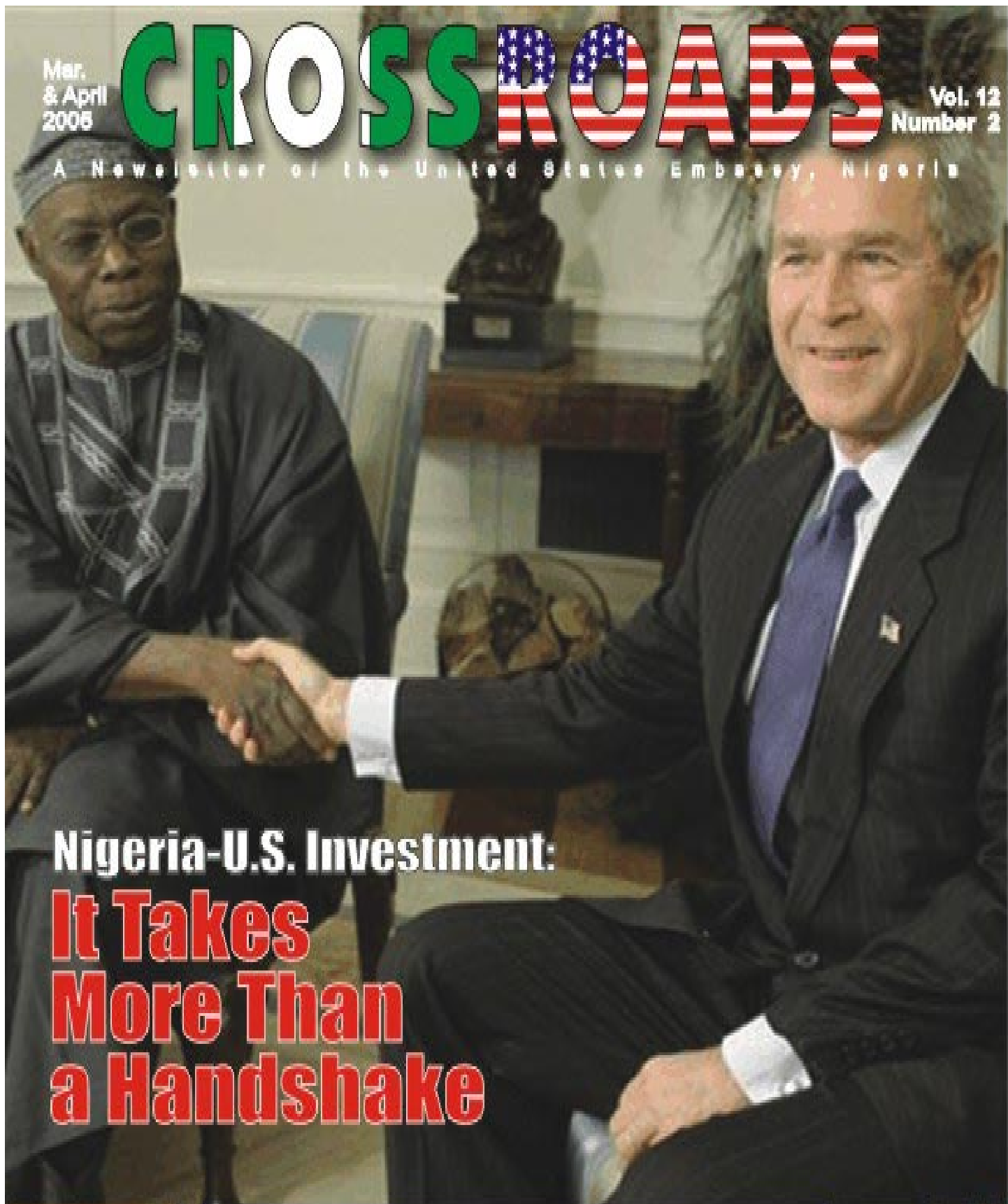


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A Newsletter of the United States Embassy, Nigeria



Nigeria-U.S. Investment:

It Takes More Than a Handshake



- Steps in Doing Business in Nigeria
- eVAPS Gives On-line Visa Processing a Boost
- Womens' Rights are Human Rights





**U.S. Consulate General
Public Affairs Officer
Atim Eneida George**

Nigeria-U.S. Relations Is "Green and Growing"

Dear *Crossroads* Family:
In this edition of *Crossroads* we lead with an article featuring Ambassador John Campbell's powerful message on the importance of creating an enabling environment for attracting the vital investment that underpins national development. We also provide an update on the adverse impact Advance Fee Fraud is having on Nigeria's fragile economy. As Nigerians turn their attention to

combating corruption, Ambassador Campbell has been both clear and consistent; the United States supports Nigeria's battle against corruption and her quest to enshrine the rule of law.

In this issue we feature an article written by our newest U.S. Fulbright Student, Daniel Hoyle (page 16). In a fascinating exploration of Nigeria's complex social mores, Hoyle weaves a captivating tale of Nigeria's recent victory over Gabon in *Nigeria, How Do You Like It?*

We also feature a report on the role of Nigerian women and institutions – both governmental and non-governmental – in the 49th Session of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women or Beijing + 10. During a roundtable jointly sponsored by the U.S. Mission and the Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC), Nigeria women told us

that for the first time, representatives from NGOs and governmental agencies presented their report on the Status of Women together. International best practices demonstrate that this collaborative approach is essential to establishing the smart partnerships which advance democratic values, practices and institutions. These same institutions focus on service delivery and human development, just two of the dividends from the emerging democratic dispensation Nigerians expect and deserve.

Speaking of women and smart partnerships, check out our report on the 2005 Women's History Month Program the U.S. Mission co-sponsored with the Deputy Governor of Osun State, Deputy Governor Mrs. Olusola Obada (page 12). We tapped the expertise of five women originally from Osun State to address this year's theme of Women As Change Agents.

The U.S./Nigeria bilateral relationship is 'green and growing'. In this issue of *Crossroads* we introduce Dr. Rudolph Stewart, our new Information Officer assigned to Abuja. With experience as an academic and expert pollster, Dr. Stewart is a skilled and accomplished professional who has taken to Nigeria like a duck to water. Read his biography on page 13.

Finally, they say that the only thing constant is change. That adage is also true in the case of *Crossroads*. We must leverage the benefits of technology to bring you interesting, authoritative and timely features while containing costs. This issue marks the final printed edition of this important publication as we complete our transition to a totally electronic platform. Peace, Atim. ♦

Quotable Quote

"I know what we are doing is the right thing. So if it means making the supreme sacrifice in the process of doing what is right, so be it."

- Nuhu Ribadu

Chairman Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) speaking on the war on corruption.

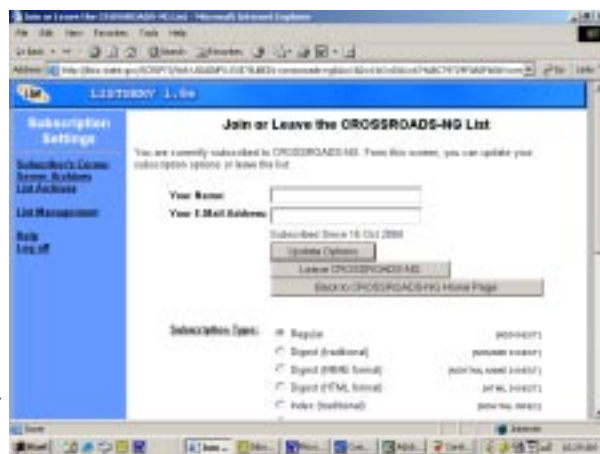
Editor's letter

To *Crossroads* Readers

DEAR *CROSSROADS* READERS,

We are still building our on-line access to an expanded version of *Crossroads*. Our virtual community distribution list continues to grow by the day. Some of you have already subscribed to the list through your e-mail to the Editor of *Crossroads*. We have gone a step further by creating an easily accessible way for readers to directly join or leave our mailing list using the *LISTSERV* system. Simply send an e-mail with your name and e-mail address to: CROSSROADS-NG@LIST.STATE.GOV and you are on.

Please direct all enquiries to *The Editor* through e-mail at crossroads@state.gov





The potentials for investment in Nigeria are enormous including a fertile land, abundant mineral resources and a versatile and large population.

Strengths and Challenges in the Nigerian Economy

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country with over 120 million citizens and arguably one of the most culturally diverse society in the world. The country has a mono-cultural economy, dependent on oil. The oil and gas sector accounts for over 90% of the country's foreign exchange earnings. GDP for 2003 was \$43 billion with agriculture and the manufacturing sector contributing 34.6% and 38.2% respectively. The decline in Nigeria's agricultural and manufacturing capacities has meant continuous increase in the country's dependence on imports. The country's major import partners as of 2003 were US 15.6%, UK 9.6%, Germany 7.3%, China 7.2%, Italy 4.3%. The United States purchases at least 80% of Nigeria's oil and gas.

Interest rates have remained very high despite efforts on the part the Nigerian Government to keep it low. Currently, interest rates range from 26% to 35% per annum. A Dutch

auction system for foreign exchange was introduced in June 2002. The auction system has helped slow reserve loss while allowing the exchange rate to be more market determined.

Market Challenges

There are no restrictions to imports except those on the import ban list. There are also no legal barriers preventing entry into business, except the minimum qualifications required by the professional bodies. Foreign companies seeking to do business in Nigeria are expected to do so with incorporated companies or otherwise incorporate their subsidiaries locally. (Visit <http://www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/>)

Enforcement of international property rights remains a problem in Nigeria despite official pronouncements and existing copyright laws. Clearance of goods at the ports can be slow, cumbersome and highly bureaucratic as a result of the corrupt tendencies of officials. Infrastructure in Nigeria is poor, and laws are weak while

corruption is a problem. However, telecommunications has improved with the liberalization of the sector which engendered the introduction of the Global System for Mobile Telecommunications (GSM) and other private telecom networks.

U.S. firms interested in the Nigerian market are advised to seek the assistance of experienced commercial lawyers, preferably those on U.S. Commercial Service Nigeria's website at <http://www.buyusa.gov/nigeria/>

Market Entry Strategy

The best way for U.S. and other foreign manufacturers and suppliers to penetrate the Nigerian market is to combine the benefits of the network services and programs of U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEAC) in association with the U.S. Commercial Service at the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos. (Visit http://www.export.gov/comm_svc/eac.html). ♦

**Excerpts from the 2005 Country Commercial Guide on Nigeria.*



Ambassador Campbell making his remarks at the **Businessmen's Day** meeting organized by the Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce on March 31, 2005.

How to Attract U.S. Investors to Nigeria - Amb. Campbell

For Nigeria to attain full economic potential beyond the energy sector, three key elements must be addressed - safety of life, robust institutions based on good governance and reliable infrastructure. These were the issues presented by U.S. Ambassador John Campbell to a group of 38 Chief Executives and their representatives in his opening remarks at the *Businessmen's Day* meeting organized by the Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce (NACC) on March 31, 2005. Ambassador Campbell observed that the bilateral investment profile as it is today, is almost exclusively in the energy sector and can only increase with an improved business environment.

Speaking specifically on "Factors that Prevent Nigeria and U.S. from Achieving their Full Potential in their Economic Relationship," Campbell pointed out that U.S. companies have invested little outside the oil and gas

sector in Nigeria due to the hostile investment climate. "The goal of the U.S. Government is to see U.S. private investment rise to such a level that it serves as a catalyst for Nigeria's internal development," the envoy said.

Proffering solutions on how to attract U.S. investments to Nigeria, Campbell said U.S. firms will invest in Nigeria only if the physical security of their personnel and property are assured. "Violence in the 'oil patch' and other parts of the country is a forceful disincentive to U.S. trade and investment in Nigeria, he said. Recent cases of abducted oil workers in the Niger Delta area compound investors fears about Nigeria.

On the value and cost of doing business in Africa, Campbell said "Nigeria is the largest source of imports from Africa to the United States, and the second largest export market on the continent for the United States. U.S. imports from Nigeria totaled \$16.3 billion in 2004, virtually

all of them from crude oil. At the same time, U.S. imports from South Africa totaled \$5.9 billion in 2004, a little more than a third of our imports from Nigeria. But U.S. companies have invested little outside the oil and gas sectors in Nigeria because of the inhospitable investment climate," he said.

Obviously comparing the friendly investment climate existing in South Africa with Nigeria's hostile business environment, Campbell said the U.S. foreign direct investment in South Africa totaled \$3.9 billion in 2003, almost 50 per cent more than in Nigeria. He urged the federal, state and local governments to do more to ensure physical and financial security in order to encourage the inflow of U.S. trade and investments into Nigeria.

The envoy listed other factors inhibiting U.S. investment in the country such as oil bunkering, money laundering, illicit weapons trade and

advance fee fraud or 419. He lamented the negative image and lost opportunities for business growth the advance fee fraud has brought on Nigeria. He warned that the issue of advance fee fraud is posing a huge problem in U.S.-Nigerian business ties.

His words: "Some people including government officials dismiss the corrosive effects of 419" by saying that the victims know the "business proposals" are shady and thus fall victim to their own greed. But increasingly, 419 scams prey on innocent people who think they are conducting legitimate business with bona fide Nigerian companies.

"The most common 419 scams often appear as attractive business opportunities, requests for proposals for legitimate contracts, job offers, charitable solicitations for donations and orders of goods from U.S. companies. Small retail electronic business firms are favorite targets.

Campbell noted that bogus firms in Nigeria buy from retail firms in the U.S. and pay promptly to build up credit and credibility and later make one large final purchase with a counterfeit U.S. bank cashier's check or a stolen credit card.

According to him, the U.S. Foreign Commercial Section in Lagos receives between 12-20 inquiries daily from U.S. companies seeking information on what they believe to be legitimate business opportunities from Nigeria, one half of which turn

U.S. Imports, Exports and Trade Balance with Nigeria : 2004

Month	Exports	Imports	Balance
January 2004	116.5	882.2	-765.6
February 2004	94.8	1,177.6	-1,082.8
March 2004	118.9	1,334.3	-1,215.4
April 2004	104.7	1,246.5	-1,141.8
May 2004	103.8	1,270.1	-1,166.2
June 2004	116.8	1,581.5	-1,464.7
July 2004	109.0	1,241.7	-1,132.7
August 2004	131.7	1,536.0	-1,404.2
September 2004	130.9	1,326.9	-1,196.0
October 2004	286.3	1,674.6	-1,388.3
November 2004	112.6	1,530.6	-1,418.0
December 2004	126.3	1,444.4	-1,318.1
TOTAL	1,552.2	16,246.3	-14,694.0

**Source:
U.S. Census Bureau.
All figures are
in US Dollars(\$).*

out to be fake or 419 scams.

His words: "The U.S. Mission's Commercial Section in Nigeria is possibly unique in that it has a unit devoted solely to investigating the bona fides of local firms. In the mid 1990s, the London metropolitan police estimated that Nigerian criminals sent out three thousand "419" solicitations per week, one half of them to persons in the United Kingdom and the United States. With the development of e-mail, it is easy to imagine that the number of 419 solicitations has increased many times over.

Commending the activities of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) in prosecuting 419 suspects, he said, "much more needs to be done."

"Nigeria could do far more for

its image in the United States by stamping out 419 than by conducting public relations campaigns, no matter how large and how well funded. Eliminating 419 scams is particularly important because American firms will only reluctantly deal with legitimate Nigerian companies until the fraudulent ones are put out of business. Their reluctance should surprise no one because when the weeds take over the garden, the flowers cannot grow."

He expressed hope that U.S. firms would respond positively as Nigeria develops reliable and robust institutions of good governance and the rule of law. Campbell stressed that reliable, robust public and private institutions are the best guarantee of the sanctity of contracts.

"Well-functioning institutions are a

Factors that Prevent U.S. Investments to Nigeria

- * Violence
- * Oil bunkering
- * Money laundering
- * Illicit weapons trade
- * Advance fee fraud or "419"
- * Inadequate enforcement of contracts
- * Weak regulatory environment
- * Corruption
- * Crime
- * Inadequate infrastructure
- * High interest rates
- * Unpredictable exchange rates
- * High manufacturing/labor costs.



necessary condition for investment and are essential to foreign investors.”

To enhance the U.S.- Nigeria trade and investment partnership, he urged the Government of Nigeria to ensure that the microeconomic and macroeconomic fundamentals are right. The returns on trade and investment for instance, determines the trade and investment climate in the most basic way, Campbell added.

Participants at the NACC *Businessmen's Day* meeting included Lagos State Commissioner for Commerce and Industry Lanre Balogun who represented the Governor of Lagos State Bola Tinubu, President Obasanjo's Special Adviser on AGOA, the President of NACC Chief Olusola Dada, representatives of the South African Chamber of Commerce, and former Health Minister Julius Adeluyi-Adelusi. More than thirty companies exhibited various types of goods and services at the meeting while the Nigerian



*Ambassador Campbell is guided through some of the made-in-Nigeria products that were on display at the **Businessmen's Day** meeting in Lagos.*

Ports Authority and Intercontinental Bank were the official sponsors of the event. For full text of Ambassador

Campbell's speech, visit <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov> ❖

Doing Business in Nigeria: The U.S. Commercial Service Way

The U.S. Commercial Service in Nigeria offers several services to both U.S. and Nigeria companies seeking business opportunities in Nigeria. Such services range from finding suppliers and conducting outreach in the U.S., to arranging meetings and hosting buyer delegations to the United States. The U.S. Commercial Service has all it takes including the tools and resources to meet all your investment needs.

U.S. businesses should be aware that many genuine opportunities exist in Nigeria, even if the atmosphere does still seem difficult and certain extra screening steps must be taken. Most Nigerians are positively disposed toward the United States and have a strong affinity for U.S. products. Nigeria has many honest businessmen and women eager to

form partnerships with American counterparts. Nigerian and U.S. authorities are working together to combat the fraud menace.

In 2002, notable progress was made by both public and private sector proponents for increased intellectual property rights protection. While some U.S. companies are excluding Nigeria from their African Commercial Strategy based on misleading and often incorrect information, many may miss out on some of the excellent commercial opportunities that exists in Nigeria as a consequence. If U.S. business travelers prepare prudently, a business trip to Nigeria can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

The Embassy Commercial Section has an array of products and services to assist the potential American exporter and investor. These are categorized under market intelligence,

trade contacts, and market promotion. In addition, the Commercial Section in Nigeria has established a highly effective system for vetting Nigerian businesses, called Networking with the USA (NUSA). NUSA allows the embassy to maintain a database of legitimate, registered Nigerian firms that have expressed an interest in importing from, or seeking strategic alliances with, American companies. In so doing, the Commercial Service in Nigeria has greatly reduced the risk to US investors or exporters who seek embassy assistance for market access. A detailed description of all Commercial Service products and services is available at the Commercial Service Web Site www.USATRADE.gov or at the Commercial Section/Nigeria's own website www.buyusa.gov/nigeria. ❖

How the 419 Scam Works

The Advance Fee Fraud otherwise known as 419, is a criminal offence defined and punishable under section 419 of the Nigerian criminal code. The scam is widely practiced by a syndicate scattered in different parts of the world. They are strategically located to implement their different tasks to ensure the success of the deals. As the name of the crime implies, the fraudsters through deception obtain money or goods from their victims in advance in lieu of a promised financial benefit accruable to the victims after the conclusion of the deal.

The deals are usually presented as legal and legitimate business although they are always an indication of a bribe to be paid to some "Government and or Bank officials," evasion of "official tax," and other illegal activities to ensure the success of the deal. What usually attracts the victims to co-operate with the fraudsters is the attractive financial benefits they hope to gain at the end of the transaction. In the real sense, both the fraudsters and their victims have wrong motives.

The scam is initiated with the fraudster contacting a targeted victim, either by fax, phone or e-mail and a proposal or request made with the fraudster posing as a senior government official, a victim or dependant of government's abuse of human rights. They usually claim to be in possession of a large amount of money. The proposals usually involve the transfer of the money to a bank account outside of Nigeria, to that of the targeted victim. A plausible or sympathetic explanation is usually given for the transfer, although they basically appeal to the intended victim's interest in receiving a sizeable percentage of the money transferred, as a commission, for the use of the bank account.

If the intended victim is interested in the deal, they are requested to

forward a variety of paperwork which generally includes blank company letterhead which are duly signed, blank invoices, telephone and fax numbers, and especially bank account details. These being required to effect the transfer of the money into the bank account

Basically, some of the features of a scam letter are;

- * **URGENCY:** The letter will stress the urgency of the matter.
- * **CONFIDENTIALITY:** The confidential nature of the transaction is stressed.
- * **FORGED DOCUMENTS:** The

ENGR. KEBBI ZANNA
LAGOS, NIGERIA.
Telfax: 234-1-885553, 5890814

Dear Sir,

BUSINESS PROPOSAL STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Your contacts came to me through a friend who does business between your country and Lagos. But I was careful not to reveal to him why I needed a competent foreign link in the person of your respected self.

In short, I am a trained Chemist specializing in currency chemistry and top official in the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Limited, in Lagos. During the last political dispensation in Nigeria (1992 to 1993), I was hired and involved in the chemical re-conversion of otherwise genuine US Dollar Bills brought into Nigeria under hidden circumstances by powerful arab National who were out to give financial support to a muslim former presidential aspirant. And of course, this was with the tacit connivance of the then military government.

Now in the heat that followed the political crises and the subsequent cancellation of the elections, the former muslim presidential aspirant was clamped in jail and has since remained in detention, with the result that some package containing a little less than (Forty-Million United States Dollars) \$40, Million U.S. Dollars, awaiting re-conversion, were abandoned in my care and custody.

As a result of the discreet nature of the re-conversion exercise, which in fact is known only to me, I now have in my exclusive control about (Forty-Million United States Dollars) \$40 Million U.S. Dollars bills in cash, presently in the form of bonded retractable negative 267.03 mint stage, deliberately defaced to elude detection and facilitate their importation into Nigeria. The bills now require only chemical re-conversion to grade A1 135 neon proof mint stage and subsequent movement outside of Nigeria for choice investments preferably in your country.

After successfully re-converting the bills by chemical process, and in the event that you accept to work with me, you shall be entitled to 40% of this funds and another 5% shall be set aside for expenses, while the remainder of 55% shall be for me and (2) subordinates.

What in essence, the whole exercise entail, is that you shall be required to make a brief visit to Nigeria to see things for yourself and be convinced beyond doubts, that the reconverted bills would really meet any scientific or commercial tests in terms of its genuineness, either in Nigeria, Europe or in the U.S.A.

Your visit will also provide the opportunity of knowing each other and collectively plan workable strategies for smooth conclusion of this exercise. A letter of invitation to enable you obtain a visa to Nigeria will be faxed to you in due course.

Finally, it is important to keep the facts of this exercise to yourself, the way I have done all these months. You must agree with me, that we cannot blow up a chance of a lifetime because we cannot be discreet over a matter that would definitely work to our mutual satisfaction.

I await your urgent response, while I remain with best regards for your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

ENGR. KEBBI ZANNA

transaction includes official-looking forged documents

* **STRONG TIES:** Claims are made that the other parties are employed in, or have strong ties with the Nigerian Government, the Central Bank of Nigeria, NNPC or dependant of a dead or living victim of government's human rights abuses.

* **VERY HUGE SUMS OF MONEY:** The deal may begin with small amounts of money but will always involve the transfer of huge sums of money usually in U.S. dollars either kept in a secret vault or an account known only to the fraudster. ♦

An Encounter with 419ers

By Brian Wizard

When I received an unsolicited e-mail allegedly from Mohammed Abacha, son of late General Sani Abacha, asking for my assistance in retrieving five hundred million looted U.S. dollars for a twenty-five percent reward, excitement raced through me. I requested more information. A second e-mail provided me with a Nigerian phone number. A purported Nigerian attorney told me that I would receive twenty installments of twenty-five million dollars, deposited into my bank account biweekly. All I needed to do was pay twenty-five thousand dollars in expenses and up-front fees.

Over the next five months I received:

- * A posted letter from another African that stated he had twenty-five million, three hundred and twenty thousand U.S. dollars he wanted to deposit into my account.
- * A fax stating a new Nigerian contact had another thirty-two million U.S. dollars for me.
- * Another e-mail from Abdulkadir Abacha, General Sani Abacha's brother, telling the best tale of all. In total, he had twenty-two BILLION U.S. dollars for me.

I was soon to be on the list of the richest people in the world! All I had to do was send money to these Nigerian contacts, allowing them to pay for hotels, airfares, gifts, and processing fees.

For the twelve hundred dollars sent, I received great Nigerian 419 Scam souvenir wallpaper. My favorite is a faxed copy of a Certificate of

Ownership to 25 million U.S. dollars. All faxes proudly displayed official signatures, stamps and seals.

I asked each contact what he knew about the other contacts. The unanimous response warned me that all other contacts were impostors.

My investigation would be incomplete without a hands-on involvement in this process. I had to go meet with the Nigerians. The two proposed rendezvous sites I chose were London and Amsterdam.

In London, the Nigerians communicated by cell phones, and never provided a physical address for contact. We met in my hotel's bar. They showed me ten stacks of U.S. \$100 bills. Each bill had a smudge on its face that I was told would prevent detection by a scanning device as it passed

the smudges and pay the release fee for the other two million dollars.

I asked to cut open one of the plastic-wrapped stacks of money so I could fan through it. I believed I saw ten stacks of copy paper with a \$100 bill topping each stack. The Nigerians did not allow me a hands-on inspection.

I asked, "Why not buy the chemical and pay the fee out of this money?" They could not spend the money they had before removing the smudges. I predicted that if I gave them money, they would simply disappear into the London crowd.

In Amsterdam, a suitcase containing an alleged five million U.S. dollars had my name on it. Unfortunately, the money was useless due to crayon marks scribbled over the serial numbers. Only a special "chemical solution" could remove the crayon. The in-room hot tub held such a chemical solution. A few whisks in the solution removed the crayon marks.

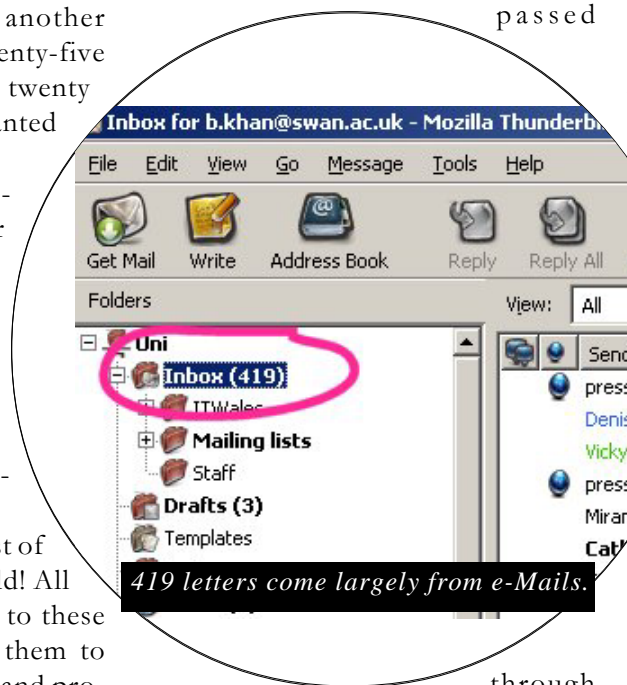
A deposit into my bank account of thirty-two million U.S. dollars within seventy-two hours would take place after I paid a membership fee of \$75,000 U.S. to join the "Secret Bank." I could have an immediate release of up to one million U.S. dollars within twenty-four hours after I paid the fee and filed my application. I asked, "Take a check? It will be good in ten days."

They wanted cash. Just like the stacks of U.S. \$100 bills that sat on the dresser. This money was a recently paid fee from a Canadian woman.

As I stalled for time, trying to find a suitable end to my investigation, the Nigerian's cell phone rang. The conversation was not for my ears, but due to the loud, panicky voice of the caller, I could not miss her words:

"Where's my money!" ❖

Brian Wizard is a literary investigator.



419 letters come largely from e-Mails.

through customs. This money, plus two million more that was waiting in a security company's vault, would be mine within 24 hours if I would buy the special chemical needed to remove



419: The Nigerian Government Response

The Federal Government of Nigeria uses a multiplicity of crime fighting approaches in trying to stamp out the nefarious activities of 419. It has special agencies like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, the Nigerian Police, and the extensive use of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and media campaigns. One such campaign appeared in the *Washington Post* of December 8. In the advertisement, the CBN warned that there is no easy money to be claimed or made in Nigeria. The agency said the warning became necessary in light of misguided people who, in the quest to make easy money at the expense of Nigeria, are defrauded by international fraudsters.

The Advance Fee Fraud, the CBN said, "is perpetrated by enticing the victim with bogus 'business' proposal, which promises millions of US dollars as a reward. The scam letter usually promises to transfer huge amounts of money, usually in US dollars, purported to be part proceeds of certain contracts, to the addressee's bank account, to be shared in some proportion between the parties. A favorable response to the letter is followed by excuses why the funds cannot be remitted readily and subsequently by demands for proportionate sharing of payments for various 'taxes' and 'fees' supposedly to facilitate the processing and remittance of the alleged funds." CBN stressed that the use of 'fake' Government, Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation letterhead and documents is a common practice and should not in anyway be construed as a stamp of approval.

In yet another well advertised press statement, the Federal Government of Nigeria through its Embassy in

Washington D.C., said it has continued to provide very useful information and guidance to U.S. investors seeking to do business in Nigeria. The motive being to ensure that American businessmen and women do not fall victim to the snares of con men. The Embassy listed the following as measures it has taken to check the Advance Fee Fraud in Nigeria.

- * Regular advertisements in major international media and business directories informing the international community of the modus operandi of these 419 scam operators and how to avoid becoming victims.

- * Prompt response by the Embassy and its two Consulates to business enquiries on Nigeria. Many of such scams have been foiled through such confirmation requests of bogus and illegal business proposals..

- * Law enforcement agents frequently raid and close down business/Internet Cafes identified as havens through which most of the 419 scam proposals are e-mailed or faxed abroad.

- * The Government of Nigeria has organized international seminars on 419 scams. As recent as September 17, 2002 the Federal Government of Nigeria organized an International Conference on Advance Fee and Related Frauds in New York at which representatives of Justice Department, FBI, senior Nigerian officials including the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation and experts from the universities and the business sector presented papers. The recommendations of that seminar have since been incorporated into the recently promulgated law on terrorism and financial crimes including 419 scams and money laundering. The seminar itself was presided over by Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo to illustrate his



President Olusegun Obasanjo

administration's commitment to the eradication of the 419 scam.

- * The recent promulgation of the "Anti-terrorism Economic and Financial Crimes and Allied Matters" law by the Nigerian National Assembly.

- * Nigeria recently entered into a treaty with the US to deal with the twin problem of money laundering and financial scams (<http://www.efccnigeria.gov/>).

Despite its determination to stamp out 419, Nigerian government officials say their biggest problems are the faceless nature of the perpetrators of this crime and the utmost secrecy surrounding most of the transactions. "By the time the victim realizes his/her follies and contacts either the Nigerian Embassy or law enforcement agents in Nigeria, the damage is already done," an official said.

In remarks to a paper presented at the Defense Advisor Conference in Abuja late last year, EFCC Chairman Nuhu Ribadu, said so far, his Commission has arrested over 500 people implicated in 419 scams, and frozen their assets. "100 of these are being prosecuted and are held behind bars during their trials. In addition, we have brought 11 victims of 419 scams to Nigeria to testify against fraudsters," the Chairman said.❖

U.S. Interest in Nigeria Goes Beyond Oil - Ambassdor Campbell

US. Ambassador to Nigeria, John Campbell paid a two-day visit to Port Harcourt, Rivers State on April 3-5. The visit provided an opportunity for him to meet and discuss bilateral issues with major stakeholders including players in the Nigerian oil and gas industry, the civil society, and religious leaders, the academics and the media in the Niger Delta region of the country. The visit was Ambassador Campbell's first to this part of the country since he assumed office.

Ambassador Campbell used every meeting with the various groups to explain several U.S. Government policies and statements on issues that border on strengthening cordial bilateral relations. The issues discussed ranged from U.S. Government's support for the present anti-corruption efforts of the Nigerian Government, the necessary incentives to encourage more U.S. investment into the Niger Delta region, sustainable development, good governance and free flow of information.

Ambassador Campbell held talks with the Rivers State Governor Peter Odili, officials of major oil companies like Shell, Mobil, Maritime/Oil Service

Company and Federal Government parastatals such as the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

At each occasion, Ambassador Campbell explained that contrary to the general misinformation expressed by some Nigerians that America's interest in the Niger Delta region is its oil, "America is indeed committed to the overall economic, social, environment and general development and well-being of Nigeria including the Niger Delta community," the envoy said. Ambassador Campbell emphasized that it is only in an atmosphere free of crime and violence that foreign investors would be encouraged to be part of these developmental drives.

In his interaction with Port Harcourt



U.S. Embassy CPAO Claudia Anyaso (in hat) and CASS Board Chair Hariat Balogun sign a MOU for American Corner Port Harcourt.



Ambassador Campbell at the media briefing in Port Harcourt on April 4.

– based journalists, Ambassador Campbell cited the recent opening of the American Corner at the Center for Advanced Social Science, as one of the developmental projects embarked upon by the U.S. Government to promote free flow of information which is necessary for sustainable development in the region. The American Corner he explained, "is to promote mutual understanding of cultures and values of both countries and provide information and opportunities that are available in the United States." The Center is also expected to engage the youth through seminars and programs.❖

Nigeria, How Do You Like It? (See page 16)

give us one goal", and old classic transformed into a football battle cry.

In the 80th minute, Kanu enters, the tall and lanky playmaker. Within a minute, his cross is met by a Nigerian striker, who heads it across the goal line and into the net. What followed was the single greatest expression of mass joy I've ever experienced, as a throbbing stadium of rain soaked Nigerians and one wide-eyed American raised their arms and yelled for three minutes straight.

A minute later, on a perfect cross, Nigeria scores again, and a dispirited Gabonese defense looks ready to go

home. We charge out the gate, through foot deep puddles, and make it back to the van. With Ifeanyi running beside the van like a presidential motorcade, hacking at people jumping onto the back of the van, and TJ hanging out the window on the other side dislodging would be free riders from the hood, we make it through traffic and back onto the road. For the first time, I register two conscious thoughts in a row. Now back in the front seat, Ifeanyi turns around and grinning widely asks, "Nigeria, how do you like it?"

Ifeanyi understood that we had just experienced a slice of Nigeria in

one of its rawest forms. Few historians or novelists could encapsulate Nigeria quite as succinctly as my soccer match experience had; from the collapse of authority in the stampede of the gate, to the community justice system that ensured young girls were paid for their peanuts; from the dash to the policeman at the gate that served as our unofficial entrance fee to the insistence that Oyibo left with his hat in hand (not to mention my camera). In this case, a seldom discussed underground Nigerian moral integrity was showcased. Clearly, despite a dash here and a look the other way there, the hard-working were paid and the innocent were protected.❖

Visa Applicants Get Speedy Attention with eVAPS

On April 1, 2005, the Electronic Visa Application Payment System (eVAPS) scratch card became the exclusive method of payment for all 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. non-immigrant visa appointments at the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos. The scratch card is a convenient, secure, and easy way to pay the \$100 processing fee required from all applicants for U.S. visas worldwide. To get an eVAPS card, applicants need to go to any Fountain Trust Bank location with their international passport. (See insert on *Obtaining an eVAPS Card*). They can then purchase a card for the amount of the fee (currently N14,000 or USD 100), and on the day of the appointment, a Consular staff member will scratch the card to reveal a unique number and to confirm payment. Fountain Trust has made the whole experience even more convenient by opening an eVAPS centre directly across from the U.S. Consulate General in the NAPEX shopping area.

The United States Diplomatic Mission to Nigeria switched from ValuCard to eVAPS in January 2005 so that applicants could enjoy a more efficient and speedy visa application experience. Without PIN numbers to remember or cumbersome currency to carry, applicants are finding that

their waiting times in the queues at the Consulate are shrinking significantly.

The Mission introduced the eVAPS scratch card through a country-wide public outreach campaign. In December 2004, for example, Consular staff along with their Public Diplomacy colleagues traveled from Lagos to Enugu and Port Harcourt to meet with local press and civic leaders and to discuss a variety of visa issues, including the new eVAPS system and the 2006 Diversity Visa Lottery. Consular staff in Lagos planned the trip as part of ongoing efforts to engage the Nigerian public on visa related issues. During



eVAPS:
The service is FREE, quick, secure and convenient.
 Visit:
<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>



eVAPS came into effect with a MOU signed between the U.S. Consulate General and the Fountain Trust Bank on November 3, 2004.



Consular Officer Noelle Wright-Young explains the eVAPS System to a journalist in Enugu.

the same campaign, Consular staff also went to Abuja and Kaduna to ensure that a very broad spectrum of the country would receive the most up-to-date and accurate information. The Mission plans to continue these public outreach campaigns and looks forward to continual innovations and advancements in our Consular operations.❖

Obtaining an eVAPS Card
 Applicants or their proxies should go to any Fountain Trust Bank branch (<http://www.fountaintrustbank.com/branches.htm>) and present their appointment letter, passport, and **N14,000** application fee in order to make a payment and receive an eVAPS card.

Nigerian Women Resolve to Enforce Affirmative Action, Advocate Empowerment of Rural Women

On March 31, 2005, as part of our Women's History Month Program, the Public Affairs Section, in coordination with the Political-Economic Section of the U.S. Consulate General Lagos and the Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center (WARDC), conducted a "Roundtable on the Beijing + 10" meeting held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Public Affairs Officer Atim George gave welcoming remarks highlighting the importance of women as change agents. Guest speaker Jessica DavisBa provided a comprehensive summary of the U.S. Government report to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Panelists drawn from more than ten NGOs, identified and discussed key issues such as the important linkage between the Beijing Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goals, capacity building and advocacy skills for



Muflat Fijabi, Senior Program Officer BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights making her presentation at the Round-table on Beijing + 10 conference.

NGOs, the importance of male involvement in ending violence and discrimination against women. There were repeated calls for Nigeria

to domesticate the Convention Ending All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).❖

— <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/> —

Women Find their Public Voice



Osun State Deputy Governor Erelu Olusola Obada making her remarks at the meeting.

Amidst 600 participants, including judges, commissioners, civil society leaders, market women and students, the Lagos Public Affairs Section and the Office of the Deputy Governor of Osun State co-sponsored a Women's History Month program on March 16. Deputy Governor Mrs. Olusola Obada, Mrs. Oyinlola, wife of the Governor and the PAO Lagos - Atim George delivered remarks. Cultural Affairs Specialist Marie Ekpere delivered a PowerPoint presentation prepared by our Information Resource Center entitled Women as Change Agents: America and Nigeria.❖

— <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/> —

Rudy Stewart is New Information Officer

Rudolph Stewart assumed the duties of Information Officer, U.S. Embassy Abuja, on January 28, 2005.

Prior this assignment, he served for twelve years as a Research Analyst (Sub-Saharan Africa) in the Office of Research in Washington D.C. In that assignment he was responsible for contracting and supervising public opinion research, and has traveled throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to joining what was then USIA, he worked as a USAID contractor in Lusaka, Zambia for three years.

Rudy received his bachelor's degree (Political Science) from Amherst College (Massachusetts) and his Masters and PhD from Iowa State University. He taught at the College of New Jersey and was also a visiting Associate Professor at Princeton University before joining USIA. Dr. Stewart is married and has three children, Robert, Renee and Elizabeth. ❖



U.S. Embassy Information Officer Rudy Stewart

American Corner Opens in Abeokuta



U.S. Consul General Brian Browne (left), watches as Ogun State Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice Akin Osinbajo commissions the American Corner Abeokuta on March 18.

U.S. Consul General Brian Browne joined Ogun State Attorney General Justice Akin Osinbajo on Friday, March 18, to formally commission the American Corner in Abeokuta. In remarks while welcoming CG Browne to his office before the ceremony, Governor Otunba Gbenga Daniel said the American Corner is a strategic asset and a major boost to US - Nigeria relations in the area of high skill acquisition. The Southwest Community Resource Center (CRC) that houses the American Corner Abeokuta, has trained more than 10,000 students in Information Technology including octogenarian twins - Taiwo and Kehinde Oluwole. ❖

CTO 2005 Holds May 16

To compete favorably in today's global market, Nigeria needs to put in place the right economic fundamentals that create the right environment for dynamic entrepreneurship to flourish. This will be the agenda and focus of the Computer, Telecommunication and Office Equipment Exhibition *CTO 2005*. From May 16 through 20, investors, dealers, traders and promoters of computer, telecommunication and office

equipment, will gather at the MUSON Center under the leadership of the U.S. Commercial Service, to discuss how to use "Technology to Foster a Productive Domestic Economic Environment."

CTO 2005 will showcase four broad themes, intellectual property rights, eCommerce, securing the information superhighway, and technology as a key to healthcare, education and social development.

According to U.S. Commercial Counselor Michael McGee at a media briefing on April 26, all interested firms, institutions, and agencies wishing to participate as exhibitors, must register with the U.S. Commercial Service at Consulate's office at 2, Walter Carrington Crescent, Victoria Island, Lagos or call Senior Commercial Specialist, Anayo Agu on telephone 01-261-0241 or e-Mail: Anayo.Agu@mail.doc.gov

\$20 million U.S Grant to Nigeria Science Academy

Professor Gabriel Ogunmola, President of the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS), engaged 25 journalists from the major electronic and print media at the weekly U.S. Consulate General Public Affairs Section's Tuesday Press Briefing of March 8, to explain his organization's partnership with the U.S. National Academies. He said the Nigerian Academy of Science plans to use its own share of the \$20 million U.S. National Academy grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to build the Academy's capacity. The first initiative under this partnership is on safe blood; this will afford the NAS an opportunity to engage a wide range of stakeholders, policy makers, researchers, regulators, industry and the general public.

He also addressed how science can be used to transform Nigeria. Central to the message he passed on is



President of the Nigerian Academy of Science Professor Gabriel Ogunmola at a press briefing in Lagos on March 8.

the fact that it will take the efforts of every Nigerian to develop Nigeria. Ogunmola emphasized that the press

has the responsibility to report scientific research and development accurately to ensure the participation of all. ❖

Abuja Law School Gets Books Worth \$2,000



CPAO Anyaso, inspects some of the donated books.

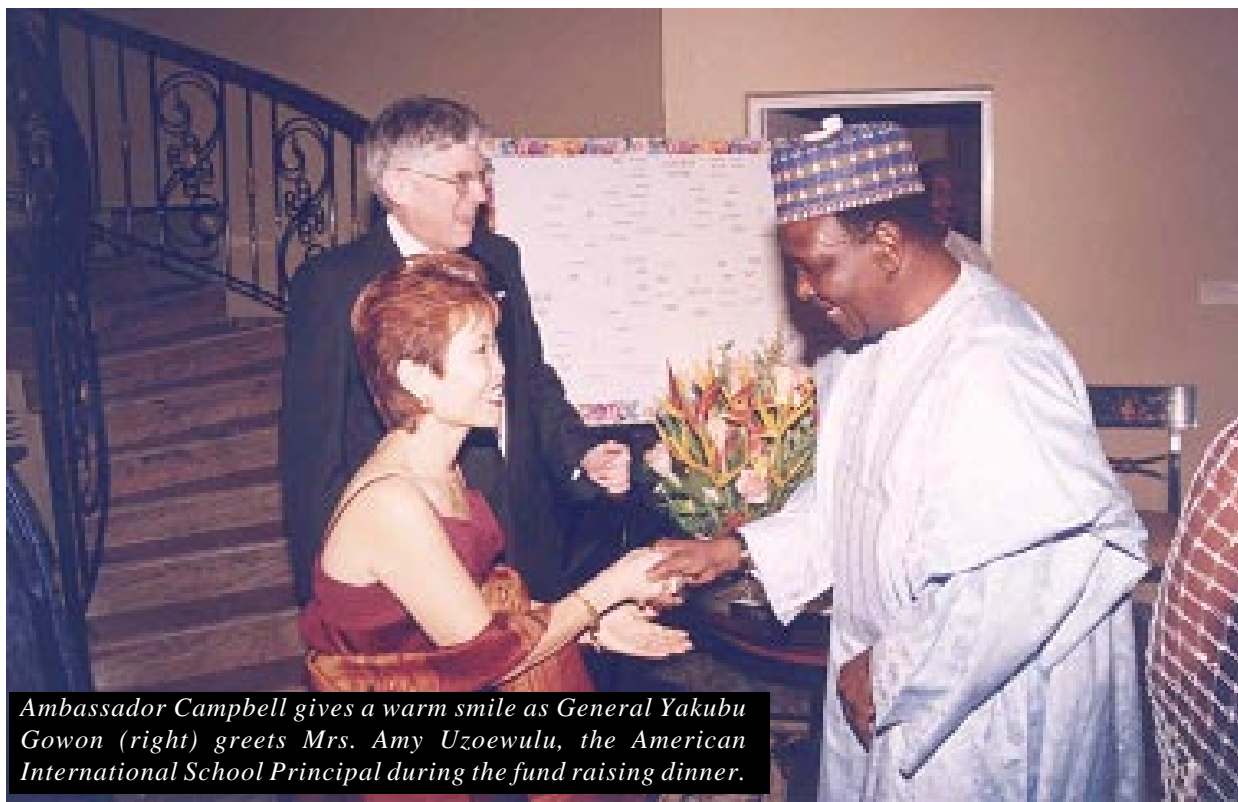
On March 17, U.S. Embassy Country Public Affairs Officer Claudia Anyaso made a presentation of 30 books on modern trial advocacy to the Nigerian Law School in Bwari, Abuja. Valued at more than \$2000, the books were donated by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy in Washington, DC. The Law School trains over 1000 lawyers a year on the Abuja campus and has campuses in Lagos, Kano, and Enugu. Copies of the 2005 World Almanac and Info-USA were also presented. ❖

NIPSS Hosts U.S. Scholar Dawn Kepets



Dawn Kepets (2nd left) at NIPSS, Jos. L-r, Dr. Mike Maduagwu, Senior Fellow, Abubakar Mohammed, President of FAAN, Claudia Anyaso, Country Public Affairs Officer, James Moolom, and Dr. Benedict Oladele NIPSS Librarian.

Dawn Kepets, Academic Exchange Specialist, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Washington D.C. visited Nigeria March 13-18, to meet with U.S. Fulbright lecturers serving in different academic institutions in the country. Kepets used the opportunity of her five-day stay to visit the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, Jos, and also met with the executives of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria (FAAN). ❖



Ambassador Campbell gives a warm smile as General Yakubu Gowon (right) greets Mrs. Amy Uzoewulu, the American International School Principal during the fund raising dinner.

American International School Raises Expansion Fund

U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria John Campbell at a recent fundraising dinner for the American International School of Abuja, hailed the institution as a “key provider of multi-cultural education for Nigerian and international students.” The Ambassador made these remarks during the course of the dinner, which was attended by many Nigerian dignitaries, including former Heads of State, Generals Yakubu Gowon and Abdulsalami Abubakar on March 22nd, 2005.

Ambassador Campbell said the American International School, a private, non-profit institution which derives most of its income from tuition fees needs the support of donors to expand, and possibly offer scholarships to less privileged Nigerian children who are gifted academically.

Vice President Atiku Abubakar in a goodwill message agreed with the Ambassador that having a first class

international school with appropriate facilities in Abuja will definitely benefit not only the Nigerian students, but also the international community and contribute to the growth of the Federal Capital City. He said the school needs the support and encouragement of all to grow and expand its facilities to the secondary school level as well as to accommodate an increase in student enrollment. He said besides academic excellence students of the American International School develop a greater understanding and acceptance of people from diverse cultures, nationalities and beliefs.

The motto of the American International School Abuja is “Our Children, Our Future.” The mission of the school’s management team includes, “the creation of a happy and secure environment that promotes a positive attitude and nurtures social and emotional well-being.”

Guest Speaker at the fund-raising dinner and former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon, praised the excellent curriculum of the American International School and its achievements in the last ten years. He asked for support and generous donations to the school’s expansion program for development of a permanent campus to accommodate the rapidly rising number of students seeking admission from Nigerian families, diplomatic communities, and multinational corporations.

The fundraising dinner activities included a presentation of “Thank You” cards to guests by young students and songs by the school choir. The total estimated cost for the new American International School is \$3,200,000.00.

The student body population represents 40 different nations made up of 30 percent Nigerian students, 20 percent U.S. students, and 50 percent third country nationals.❖

Nigeria, How Do You Like It?

By Dan Hoyle

Dan is an American Fulbright research student attached to the University of Port Harcourt. In this piece, he shares his experience about Nigeria through a soccer match.



Fulbright Fellow Dan Hoyle

Saturday, 7 p.m. Nigeria vs Gabon. Liberation Stadium, Port Harcourt. At only 300 Naira per head, I figured I'd invite all my soccer friends from the neighborhood. But I was told by my driver Godfrey that only a select few could come—namely three strongmen Ifeanyi, TJ and Bismark.

So we pile into the hotel van, a white clanky beater, an Al Quaeda looking special. Outside the stadium, it's swarmed with people, there's nowhere to park. Except at the side of the road, just like everyone else. And ticket sellers are whoever has tickets, which is lots of young men screaming 300 Naira, 300 Naira. Of course when you go to buy they've increased the price to 400 Naira.

It took me a week to realize that in Nigeria, everything is like ordering a drink at the bar. It took me fifteen minutes of polite waiting, murmuring, "excuse me" to no effect, biting my lip, sighing deeply, and putting my hand on my hip before I performed a textbook basketball rebounding box out, elbows flared and bum low, and was able to order my first chicken and rice.

But as we nudge our way to the gate, the bubbling of the crowd suddenly turns into a frenzied hooligan yell and I'm caught in a stampede for the gate. The mob has broken through the police barrier, and in turn for a few wacks on the head from the wooden police slap sticks, they are charging through the gate. Ifeanyi grabs me, and using me as a snowplow, steers me toward the gate, yelling "Oyibo, Oyibo". I'm like a forcefield and we get through unscathed! We've snuck in, the police left to yell and flail behind us.

But that was only the surrounding gate. To get into the stadium, we need tickets, insists the cops. "Bring 400 Naira" Ifeanyi commands. I hand it over, he passes it to the policeman, and we're in—a bargain price. Inside, the place is packed, as hundreds if not thousands have snuck in.

Then the sky surges orange red, and it begins to pour. Fat, warm, streams of water. As if amped with electricity from the lightning, the crowd goes wild. The hat vendor, who was having a tough time of it a night game (no sun), is suddenly a man in demand. "Hundred Naira, Hundred!" he yells hopping from one foot to the other like Rumpelstilkin. Oranges, single cigarettes (which are smoked collectively by the crowd, one person buying and then passing it down the rows), pictures of famous people, cardboard boxes of hot rice, and yes, peanuts, are all on sale.

Amazingly, no one gets shorted. Little girl vendors sling a saran wrapped handful of peanuts or fruit up twenty rows, and then wait as the grubby bill makes its way down. If someone doesn't pay, they are slapped on the back of the neck, threatened, yelled at and squirted with water by the twenty closest people until payment is made. The code of ethics is complex and varied in Nigeria. When I'm

cleared a place to stand, my hat is immediately snatched from my head, only to be returned seconds later when everyone around me berates the thief. It's a sort of community justice system, a default perhaps because laws are so hard to enforce. The strict enforcement of 20 Naira honesty stands in stark relief to Nigeria's notoriety as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. It's a sort of parallel market of morality, that sadly, seems too often overrun by a less scrupulous political class.

But the bags of water are the biggest hit, because they're the most fun to throw. It begins from the top row, people lobbing their empty plastic water bottles on the police on the other side of the gate, a great back-slapping eruption of laughter whenever anyone nails a policeman. Then the top rows begin throwing bags of water at the bottom rows, partly as a way to discourage fans at the bottom from climbing on each other's shoulders and blocking the view of the pitch. But what goes down must go up, so the bottom rows arm themselves, and we are now getting pelted with our recycled weapons.

On the field, the players tap the ball back and forth with brilliant and unpredictable curves, as if they had magnets in their cleats. My favorite is Jay Jay Okocha, the Nigerian team captain, and from what I can tell the Allen Iverson of African soccer. The game starts and he's the first to get his shake on, letting a crowd of Gabonese defenders surround him and then in a flurry of dreadlocks, they fall by his side like chopped wood.

By the end of the second half, there's still no score, and the crowd begins to moan. "All we are saying..." the John Lennon chant begins, and I'm baffled. A truce offering? "...is

Continued on Page 10

Using Radio to Promote Democracy

Charles Kalu is the Business Manager of Rhythm 94.7 Abuja. He participated in the International Leadership Program for African Broadcasters from January 31 - February 21, 2005.

In 2001, I was transferred from our Lagos Office (Rhythm 93.7) to the Port Harcourt Office (Rhythm 93.7) as the pioneer Head of News of the first private-owned radio station in the South-South Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria.

The radio station, which debuted as the alternative voice from the State-owned radio stations, was faced with the challenge of carving a niche for itself as the vibrant local newspapers in the Port Harcourt-Yenegoa axis had triumphed in its resolve to ceaselessly champion the fight for a better deal for the Niger Delta Region.

That challenge rested on me to a large extent because as the Head of News, I needed to investigate and report issues that had direct bearing on the people to move those in power to action.

However, little did I know that the reports we aired pricked the conscience of those in power to act.

How does one deal with actions by government officials especially when you have security personnel on your trail for reporting the truth?

Was I really using the radio to do what it is supposed to be used for?

The radio, a medium, which has the widest reach, is known to have been used over the years to defend and promote democracy as well as protect human rights.

Have we then used it effectively in this part of the World? If not, Why not?

Questions like these continued to bug my mind over a period of time until I was chosen to participate in the International Visitors' Program

organized by the U.S Department of State, facilitated by the Cultural Affairs Section of the U.S Consulate General in Lagos.

Indeed, the International Visitors' Program was a rare opportunity for me and eleven other colleagues from eleven African countries to see, experience, interact and ask questions from several broadcast and print media houses, Mass Communication/Journalism Departments in several universities as well as NGOs working on media and civil society related issues.

The program was an experience that will definitely influence me personally and professionally.

The three-week tour kicked off in Washington D.C. This "Administrative" capital city of the U.S. celebrates American heroes and heroines.

The ingenuity and creativity of the American society is depicted by the monuments and museums, which adorn the city Americans fondly call "D.C".

The experience in Washington D.C set the tone for the tour as we were introduced to the several media-related government agencies, NGOs dealing with media issues as well as civil society groups.

From there to Minnesota, the state known for its "Twin Cities"- Minneapolis and Saint Paul, presented us with so much to learn from a variety of private radio and television stations, particularly the Minneapolis Public Radio.

The Public Radio, which is alien to African countries is supported by pledges from the public.

We were also treated to a typical American family life in the U.S. during our sojourn in Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

Our third port of call was the historic city of Albuquerque in New Mexico. Volunteers from the

Albuquerque Council For International Visitors took us round to several Indian and Mexican communities including *Window Rock* - the capital of Navajo Nation.

While in Albuquerque, we also visited and interacted with students at a high school and several broadcast and print outfits.

The participants then traveled to Miami, our last port of call to have a feel of peoples from across the world converging in the city to enjoy the warmth, tourist sites and beaches.

We had lectures on Media Convergence and Marketing Strategies in a multi-ethnic society, which was quite informative and rewarding.

Generally, the experience I gained during the three-week radio broadcasting program in the U.S has greatly increased my understanding of the workings of radio and television broadcasting and technological trends in the industry.

As I task my thoughts over the programme, I am left with nothing but to give back to my community the experiences I gathered through increased participation on issues that would help make my society a better place.

These include issues that would make those in power accountable; issues to further mitigate the threat of HIV/AIDS and promote abstinence.

Another great discovery during the tour was the vibrancy and dynamism of civil society groups, which inspired me to initiate the formation of an advocacy group on good governance such as *Common Cause* modeled after the one in the United States.

Common Cause Nigeria would aim at holding those in power accountable and advocating common values necessary for a strong democracy such as fairness, honesty, integrity and accountability. ❖



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May Events	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 <i>May Day</i>	3 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	4 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	5	6	7
	8	9	10 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	11 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	12 <i>Metamorphosis of Malcolm X, (Ibadan)</i>	13	14
	15	16	17 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	18 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	19 <i>Fulbright Alumni Program (Nsukka)</i>	20	21
	22	23	24 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	25 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	26	27	28
2005	29 <i>Nigeria Democracy Day</i>	30	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>				

Please note that ALL events on this calendar are **STRICTLY** by invitation. For enquiries please call the telephone numbers listed above.